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Columbus Installs Two Electric Vehicle Charging Stations for Public Use

In preparation for the next generation of vehicles, the City of Columbus and Clean Fuels Ohio are piloting two electric vehicle charging stations that can be used by the public. The stations are located on the north side of Goodale Street between Dennison and Park Street and in front of the city's Beacon Building at 50 West Gay Street. The stations can fully charge most electric vehicles in 4 to 6 hours. The only cost for the user will be for metered parking.

"Electric vehicles result in less pollution and more job potential for our residents," Mayor Michael B. Coleman said. "With these initial charging stations, we can help support the market and our residents, making the choice to switch to an electric vehicle that much easier."

The cost of construction is \$45,000, which is being split by the City of Columbus and the U.S. Department of Energy. The federal government's share is in addition to the \$500,000 Clean Cities planning grant, which was awarded to Clean Fuels Ohio as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to support community planning for plug-in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure. The city is working with Clean Fuels Ohio to plan for electric vehicles in Columbus.

"These public charging stations are an important addition to our city as we continue to move toward a more green infrastructure and become a regional destination for travel and business," said Councilmember Eileen Y. Paley. "We are excited to offer area residents and visitors this amenity to charge their electric vehicles while they enjoy our downtown and the Short North."

With the two new locations, Columbus now has 22 public electric vehicle charging stations installed throughout the city, with more on the way. The others are:

- Ohio Statehouse Parking Garage, 6 charging stations
- Morse Road Walmart, 2 charging stations
- Easton East Parking Garage, 2 charging stations
- The Electrical Trades Center, 947 Goodale Blvd., 5 charging stations
- The Ohio State University Center for Automotive Research 5 charging stations

"We're excited to partner with the city of Columbus to install electric vehicle charging stations in our city," Clean Fuels Ohio Executive Director Sam Spofforth said. "As we begin to see electric vehicles purchased in Ohio, consumers will have the benefit of having great locations to charge their vehicles."

In late 2010, Columbus was designated as the Ohio Energy Manufacturing Solutions Hub whose objective is to focus on energy manufacturing solutions and technologies related to energy storage. Columbus is also home to the award winning Ohio State University's Center for Automotive Research, whose focus is on advanced automotive research and development.